

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:LHEICHLER:DAM

APPROVED BY EUR - WSTABLER

EUR/CE - MR. GEORGE

E- MR.BILLER

S/S - MR. LUERS SC

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, GW

SUBJ: OFFSET -- PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO BRANDT

1. DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO
CHANCELLOR BRANDT ASAP. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. CHANCELLOR:
SINCE LAST JUNE, REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT
AND MINE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY
SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT FOR OFFSETTING THE COST
OF STATIONING US TROOPS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.
WHILE REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, OUR POSITIONS
REMAIN FAR APART, AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT US LEGISLATION.
I WANT TO REASSURE YOU OF MY PERSONAL INTEREST IN
THE SPEEDIEST POSSIBLE CONCLUSION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

WHILE PURSUING BILATERAL TALKS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT,
WE HAVE ALSO EXPLORED IN NATO A MULTILATERAL BURDENSARING
AGREEMENT. YOUR GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN THESE
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DISCUSSIONS. NO CONFLICT OR DUPLICATION EXISTS

BETWEEN THE TWO SETS OF TALKS, AND, EXCEPT FOR THE ALREADY REQUESTED CHANGE IN THE GERMAN SHARE OF NATO BUDGET COSTS, WE WILL NOT REQUEST YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MULTILATERAL NATO EFFORT BEYOND A SATISFACTORY BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO TAKEN A DEEP INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT. WHILE I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTINUE TO STATION AS MANY TROOPS IN GERMANY AS OUR MUTUAL SECURITY NEEDS INDICATE, CONGRESS HAS APPROVED A PROVISION WHICH WILL MAKE REDUCTIONS IN US NATO FORCES MANDATORY IF OUR MILITARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COSTS IN EUROPE DURING THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR ARE NOT FULLY OFFSET BY OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES. THIS LEGISLATION -- THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT TO THE 1974 MILITARY PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT -- SHOULD BE VIEWED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, AS IT IS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT IF 100 OFFSET IS ACHIEVED, THERE WILL BE NO UNILATERAL US FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE.

I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS TO COMPLETE OUR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION TO SET IN MOTION A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT CONCLUSION OF AN OFFSET AGREEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. I ASK THAT, IN VIEW OF OUR DEEP AND MUTUAL SECURITY INTERESTS, YOU REVIEW THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE AND HOPEFULLY ELIMINATE, THROUGH ADDITIONAL MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND COST-SHARING, THE LARGE GAP BETWEEN OUR POSITIONS.

OFFICIALS IN OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN WORKING INTENSIVELY TO DEFINE HOW THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A MANNER WHICH MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR NEW LEGISLATION AND IS FEASIBLE AND SATISFACTORY FOR BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS. CONCRETE PROPOSALS
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AND THE BASIS FOR THEM ARE BEING TRANSMITTED TO YOUR GOVERNMENT. IF YOU AGREE, MR. CHANCELLOR, MAY I TAKE THE LIBERTY TO SUGGEST THAT YOU INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR HERMES TO MEET WITH UNDER SECRETARY CASEY, MY REPRESENTATIVE, BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH TO CONTINUE AND COMPLETE OUR NEGOTIATIONS. SINCERELY, RICHARDNIXON. END TEXT RUSH

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